

Vanessa Slinger-Friedman, Geography and Anthropology (CHSS) EAO Report

Written summary of what you learned and how you are using what you learned by attending this faculty development workshop

Danke!

I want to start by saying a big, “Thank you!” to Ron Matson, Robin Dorff, Ken Harmon, and the Office of Academic Affairs for financing and coordinating this faculty professional development. It was the best faculty development workshop that I have participated in. Every aspect of the workshop was well conceived and well executed. The facility in Otzenhausen is an ideal setting for this workshop since it allows the faculty to work and ‘play’ together in a setting related to sustainability.

What I learned

This workshop was a wonderful experience professionally and personally. I learned a tremendous amount from the EAO staff, presenters, guided field trips, and also from my KSU colleagues.

- Unbeknownst to me, many KSU faculty are involved in a wide variety of sustainability related activities and research. The workshop was a great opportunity to find out about these activities and research, and to network to forge potential collaborations in this field.
- The fieldtrips were a great way to experience first hand the potentials and challenges of sustainability in the real world. I can’t wait to share these experiences with students! My favorite fieldtrip (although I liked them all) was probably the organic farm.
- Access to relevant data on topics ranging from electricity prices for renewable energy sources to the Tipping Points study on planetary boundaries. Received relevant data and information on EU, and German specific, plans for green house gas emissions.
- Access to information on policies related to sustainability (in Europe and elsewhere). This is probably the weakest part of my Local and Global Sustainability course that I teach. I have new tools and information to boost this part of the course.
- Several resources (articles and books) were recommended to us. I would like to get access to these resources and find the time to immerse myself in reading and learning from them: for example -
 - The Dragons of Inaction (article)
 - Rudolf Steiner’s holistic biodynamic agriculture
 - Sustainability via Nature (Denise Meadows book)
 - 7 Billion (Steven Emmit)
 - Good to Great (book)

How I am using what I learned in the workshop

- Impacts in my courses: I teach GEOG 3710 Local and Global Sustainability in Spring 2018. I am currently working on integrating materials that I was exposed to in the workshop into lectures and activities in this class. I also plan to create some online

modules for this class using the workshop material. I will also be trying to secure funds to take my Local and Global Sustainability students on fieldtrips to see sustainability in action in some local businesses. Over the next two years I intend on inserting material gained from participating in the workshop into the following class: Introduction to Human Geography (integrated into several modules) and World Regional Geography (in the European Geography section).

- Encouraging participation and leadership in the KSU Sustainability Commission: One of the benefits of traveling and learning with fellow KSU colleagues was learning about the sustainability experiences and projects of other KSU faculty. As Chair of the KSU Presidential Commission on Sustainability I want to include some (if not all) of my KSU EAO cohort in the meetings and activities of the Sustainability Commission. The potential for collaboration between faculty in this setting is great. I would also like to involve more faculty in the leadership structure of the Sustainability Commission so that this commission has good faculty candidates vying for the Chair and Associate Chair positions in future years.
- Sustainability Faculty Learning Community: I am in a Faculty Learning Community for 2017-2018. We are just beginning this learning community but I hope to bring some of the knowledge from the EAO workshop into this learning community to benefit the entire group of faculty.
- Being a Sustainability Faculty Mentor: I have already begun to promote the workshop and other sustainability opportunities at KSU to faculty at KSU on both campuses. I am thrilled that the 2018 EAO workshop will most likely be focused on sustainability again. There are so many faculty at KSU who will benefit from the knowledge and experience to be gained at the EAO workshop. I hope to be influential in building a community of faculty, staff, and students who are concerned about and working towards moving the needle at KSU in terms of becoming a more sustainable institution.